(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of BPL families expected to be benefited consequently?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Government is examining the possibility of extending one time financial assistance to cover the security deposit for one LPG cylinder and one Pressure Regulator to BPL families for converting from kerosene to LPG usage. The scheme is still in a conceptual stage.

Gas exploration by OVL

2123. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium led by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has abandoned its plan for exploration of oil from the Farsi block in Iran due to high sulphur content in the crude which makes commercial production unviable;

(b) whether the consortium is considering the option to retain the block for possible gas production;

(c) if so, whether the Farsi block is assessed to have adequate gas reserves to justify the investment by the consortium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No Sir. High Sulphur Content is not the reason for the oil field to be non commercial. ONGC Videsh limited (OVL) led consortia consisting of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) has submitted a Feasibility Report for the oil discovery based on techno-economic considerations to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 26th November, 2008.

(b) to (d) Commerciality of the gas find of Fazad-B gas field of Farsi Block established by the OVL led consortia has been accepted by NIOC. This Gas Initial In-Place (GIIP) is estimated to be 12.5 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). Master Development Plan (MDP) to develop the field is under finalization in consultation with NIOC. Preliminary estimated Investment as per MDP would be about USD 5.5 billion for sales gas option wherein Gas production is contemplated for a period of 30 years.

Bid by oil PSU in Gulf region

2124. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Technip and a well-known and established company in the field of engineering technology and project management for oil and gas industry world-wide, has recently announced in October, 2009 that in the coming six to nine months projects worth $21 billion would be awarded in Gulf region; and